

REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to an Office action dated August 5, 2008. In the Office action, claims 1, 4, and 8 are rejected as being allegedly indefinite; claims 1, 8 and 12-14 are rejected as obvious; and claims 2-7, 9-11 and 15-17 are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By way of this amendment, claims 1, 5, 8 and 10-11 are amended and claims 2 and 9 are canceled. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-8 and 10-17 are pending and at issue. In view of the amendments to claims 1, 4, and 8 submitted herewith, reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

First, with respect to the indefiniteness rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, claims 1, 4 and 8 are amended per the suggestions of the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants submit such rejections should be withdrawn.

Turning to prior art rejections, claims 1, 8, and 12-14 are rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,222,615 ("Suzuki") in view of International Application Publication No. WO 02/27872 ("Weulersse"). However as claims 2-7, 9-11, and 15-17 are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, Applicant has further amended independent claims 1 and 8 to incorporate the allowable subject matter recited in claims 2 and 9, respectively. Claims 2 and 9 are cancelled accordingly. No new matter is added. In light of the foregoing, the obviousness rejections should be withdrawn as well.

In view of the amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims 1, 3-8, 10-17 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request same. If a telephone call would expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at the number listed below.

Appl. No. 10/570,726
Amdt. dated October 14, 2008
Reply to Office action dated August 5, 2008

Docket No. 28944/50023
(PATENT)

Dated: October 14, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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